

REMARKS

The Applicants thank the Examiner for the examination to date and respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and the reasons that follow.

I. Status of the Specification and the Claims

The present Specification on page 7 from line 20 to line 26 is hereby amended to reinstate the language of the original application, prior to the amendment as provided in the February 12, 2010 Reply.

Claim 5 is amended to further recite specific embodiments of the granulation process that produces the granulated product. Support for the amendment can be found on, *inter alia*, page 17, line 12 to page 18, line 5 in the Specification as filed. Claim 25 is amended to make a minor editorial change. New claims 35-40 are added to recite specific embodiments of a method involving a fluidized bed granulation process; support therefor can be found on, *inter alia*, page 17, line 12 to page 18, line 11; page 14, lines 23-24; page 13, lines 32-33 in the Specification. No new matter is introduced, and claims 5-6, 22-33, and 35-40 are pending to be examined on their merits.

II. Objection under 35 U.S.C. § 132(a)

The amendment filed on February 12, 2010 with respect to the Specification is objected to because it allegedly introduced new matter. Without agreeing with the Office, the Applicants hereby remove the February 12, 2010 amendment and reinstate the original Specification and respectfully submit that the objection is obviated by the foregoing amendment.

III. Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Office has maintained the rejection of claim 25 and alleges that it is indefinite¹. The Applicants have amended claim 25 to recite “components in the granulated product other than other than the compound with poor wettability and surfactant...”. As evidenced on page 14, lines 25-30 of the Specification, such recitation of “components” refers to, for example, excipient, lubricant, binder, disintegrant, thickener, coating agent, preservative, antioxidant, colorant, sweetening agent, etc., excluding the compound with poor wettability and surfactant. Accordingly, the foregoing amendment to claim 25 has rendered moot the rejection.

IV. Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §§ 102, 103

Claims 5-6, 22-26, and 34 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(a), 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by US 6,660,296 (“Debregeas”). Claims 5-6 and 22-34 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Debregeas. The Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

While not acquiescing to the grounds of the rejection, the Applicants have amended present independent claim 5 to recite the specific embodiments of the granulation process that produce the granulation product. The Applicants appreciate that the Office has clarified the rejection on pages 2-3 of the Office Action. The Office appears to have acknowledged the distinctions of the present invention from Debregeas’ teachings with respect to the recitation “a compound with poor wettability and a surfactant being blended and subsequently granulated together...”. Office Action, page 5. Accordingly, the Applicants have added the recitations

¹ The Applicants respectfully submit that the first paragraph in the 35 U.S.C. § 112 rejection section on page 2 of the Office Action appears to contain a typographical error. Based on the Office’s analysis regarding claims 5 and 25 on pages 2-3 of the Office Action, the Applicants presume the rejection is directed to claim 25 (versus claim 5) and the previous rejection of claim 22 has been withdrawn. If the Office disagrees, the Applicants respectfully request that the Office specify the basis of the disagreement.

regarding mixing, kneading, compressing, etc., to claim 5 to further distinguish Debregeas' teachings. Indeed, Debregeas does not teach or suggest these presently added recitations.

Therefore, the Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

The Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance and respectfully request favorable reconsideration of the application.

The Office is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

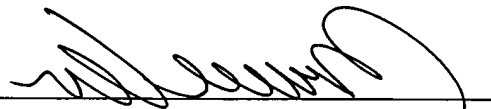

The Office is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, the Applicants hereby petition for such extension under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 and authorize payment be charged to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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